



G A O

Accountability • Integrity • Reliability

United States Government Accountability Office  
Washington, DC 20548

---

May 26, 2005

The Honorable Duncan Hunter  
Chairman  
The Honorable Ike Skelton  
Ranking Minority Member  
Committee on Armed Services  
House of Representatives

Subject: Drinking Water Contamination and Related Health Effects at Camp Lejeune,  
North Carolina

We are beginning work on the mandate contained in the National Defense Authorization Act of FY 2005 requiring us to review drinking water contamination and related health effects at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. Due to the complexity of the issue and our uncertainty about the availability of data, we need to proceed with a separate design phase.

The purpose of this letter is to set forth the study objectives and provide you with a completion date for the design phase. The objectives of our work will be to evaluate (1) the history of drinking water contamination at Camp Lejeune, including the type of contamination, the source of the contamination, and actions taken to address the contamination; and (2) the design of the proposed study by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) on the possible health effects associated with the contaminated drinking water at Camp Lejeune.

The design phase will be completed by July 2005. We will remain in contact with your staff, and at the end of the design phase, we will provide you with a projected completion date for the total study. Should you have any questions, please contact me at (202) 512-7119 or Bonnie Anderson, Assistant Director, at (404) 679-1865. You may also reach us by email at [crossem@gao.gov](mailto:crossem@gao.gov) or [andersonbw@gao.gov](mailto:andersonbw@gao.gov).

Marcia Crosse  
Director, Health Care